



Band commander Colonel Lowell E. Graham to retire in July

Colonel Lowell E. Graham, commander and conductor of The United States Air Force Band, recently announced his decision to retire from the Air Force after 28 years of distinguished service. The retirement ceremony is set to take place in July following his final concert with the Band on Independence Day on the north steps of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The concert begins at 6 p.m. and will be broadcast live on WETA 90.9 FM.

Since he took command of The Air Force Band more than six years ago on September 15, 1995, Colonel Graham has led "America's Band" to new heights with innovative programming and visionary leadership. Look for a feature article in the July issue of Cadenza highlighting his many accomplishments as commander of the Band and throughout his entire career. Following his retirement, Colonel Graham will move to Texas and assume the position of chairman of the department of music at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Succeeding Colonel Graham will be conductor, pianist, composer/arranger and teacher, Colonel (Select) Dennis M. Layendecker. Currently serving as commander and conductor of the United States Air Forces in Europe Band at Sembach Air Base, Germany, Colonel Layendecker will bring a wealth of experience to our organization.

It is with great respect and admiration that the men and women of The United States Air Force Band offer Colonel Graham best wishes in the next chapter of his life, and welcome Colonel Layendecker to "America's Band."

Band's director of Public Affairs retires

In This Issue...

- 2 From The Commander
- 3 Singing Sergeants Summary
- 3 Diplomats
- 4 Brass Biz
- 5 The Air Force Strings
- 5 Airmen of Note Notes
- 6-7 Calendar of Events
- 7 Concert Band
- 8 High Flight Happenings
- 9 Silver Wings
- 10 Alumni News
- 11 Production Notes

In a beautiful May Day ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, Chief Master Sergeant Daisy Jackson, the Band's director of Public Affairs, retired from the United States Air Force. Originally from Pensacola, Florida, Chief Jackson began her career in 1982 as a soprano with the Singing Sergeants. Over the years, she performed for presidents, statesmen and military leaders from almost every nation, and was a featured soloist with the Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra in concerts throughout the United States and abroad. The stunning virtuosity and dramatic lyricism of her voice have made her a favorite among the nation's top leaders, and although she joined the staff of the Office of Public Affairs in 1994, she continued to perform coast to coast as a recitalist and oratorio soloist. This past October, she captivated an international television audience with her solo rendition of *America, the Beautiful* on CNN's *Larry King Live*. Most recently, she gave an unforgettable performance of the national anthem at the opening of a Washington Redskins football game.



Chief Master Sgt. Daisy Jackson performing the national anthem at a Washington Redskins football game.

(Continued on page 11)

As the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants make their final stops on this, my last tour with The United States Air Force Band, I am still awed by the synergy that is created between the musicians and the audience at each performance. From the moment our buses arrive in town, there is excitement in the air. While the Band's operations team finalizes hotel arrangements and makes room assignments, the technical support team manages the complex details of the stage setup at the concert hall. The musicians make the necessary preparations for the program, and each evening provides us with a new opportunity to spread the good news of the United States Air Force through music. When all is played and sung, there is nothing more rewarding than receiving positive feedback and compliments from the audience for a job well done by this wonderful organization I have been so fortunate to lead for nearly seven years.

In this period of renewed patriotism among Americans, our job is more important than ever. What better way is there to show your support for our great nation than to gather with your fellow citizens at an Air Force Band concert? From the opening timpani roll until the final applause, your Air Force Band is hard at work doing what they do best – providing world-class entertainment guaranteed to make you proud to be an American. Furthermore, the professionalism you see on stage is merely a reflection of the great work being accomplished every day by airmen serving in more than 150 career fields in today's Air Force. Whether they're fueling an aircraft or playing a difficult passage, today's airmen share a common goal: defending our precious freedoms through service before self, integrity and excellence in all we do. Never forget, the very best things in life are free.



Lowell E. Graham



Colonel Graham acknowledges the men and women of the Howard University Band. He was the group's special guest conductor in a concert on April 14 in Washington, D.C.

Cadenza

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Singing Sergeants Summary

By Technical Sergeant Brian Davis

The Singing Sergeants are fortunate to have a wide variety of performance opportunities. Among our favorite concerts are the ones we give for young people. Singing for children is always a very rewarding experience. As part of the Band's education outreach program, we take small vocal ensembles – up to eight singers and a pianist – to grade schools and high schools in the Washington, D.C., area. Even with this small number of singers, the repertoire is diverse and entertaining.

Singing in schools is really a two-fold job. First, we are representing the United States Air Force. It's a great way to let younger kids know there are many jobs available in the Air Force that require a wide variety of skills. Second, we are reaching out to children with music. Hopefully, we might even inspire a young child to pursue a career in music. But most importantly, we want to be role models and encourage them to study hard and set goals that will lead to their success in life.

Here are just a few of the many letters we have received from children thanking us for coming to their school.

Dear Singing Sergeants,

Your Singing extravaganza was very engaging. I really think that it is an honor to work for your country and do something you love. I really like that you sang some songs that kids actually recognize. I appreciate you guys coming to our small school when you have so much else to do. My favorite part was the beginning introduction because the way you presented the song was funny and clever. I have a lot of respect for you because your voices are so amazing, unlike my brother. Again I say a big thank you too all of you.

Dear Singing Sergeants,

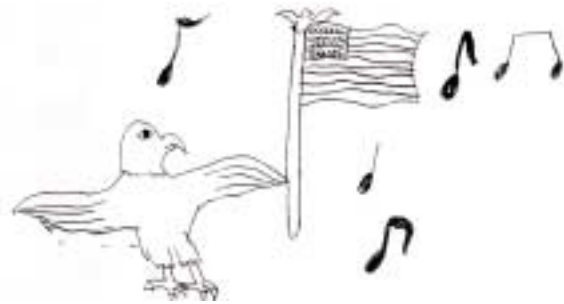
Thank you so much for coming to our school. It was a real nice performance. I really envy your singing. Ever since I was a baby, I have loved singing. I have just joined All-County Chorus, and I hope to learn to sing as good as you do. I really like the way that you can imitate other voices. Your performance was very unique, because you sang some interesting songs rather than boring songs. I think it is so cool how you can do something that you love such as singing and get

paid for doing it at the same time. I think it is so cool how you can be in the Air Force at the same time. I hope to hear you sing again someday. It was a very neat experience.

Dear Singing Sergeants,

I would like to start by saying thank you for coming to our school. I felt honored to hear such a great group. I really enjoyed the songs you sang to us. I thought you sounded wonderful and especially enjoyed how much you sounded like the characters you sang. I thought you sang "Under the Sea" and "Be Our Guest" exceptionally well. You taught me about one more job in the Air Force, and I think you must have a lot of fun doing your job because you get to travel to many places. I thought you looked very nice in your uniforms. I hope you will be able to come back to our school even if I will not be here to hear you. I would like to end this letter by giving you two thumbs up because you deserve it. You're the best singing group I've ever heard.

Music is very important to our society. It's all around us and is an invaluable tool when used to motivate and inspire the youth of America. We enjoy going into schools and performing for the kids – their responses make it all worthwhile. ☺



One of many drawings by children sent to the Singing Sergeants.

The Diplomats

By Technical Sergeant Dennis Hoffmann

The Diplomats have an exiting announcement to make in this issue of Cadenza – we are back to full strength with the arrival of pianist Technical Sergeant Jonathan McPherson. He and his family arrived on Bolling Air Force Base in March. Sgt. McPherson auditioned to become the pianist with the Dips back in November 2001, and he is now among the newest members of The Air Force Band family.

Sgt. McPherson began playing the piano at age 12. Before coming to The Air Force Band in Washington, D.C., he served as keyboardist in New Horizon, the popular music combo of the United States Air Force Band of Liberty at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

"I'm looking forward to playing the style of music I love most – jazz!" McPherson says when asked about his new job with the Diplomats. "I think that Washington, D.C., will be a wonderful and exciting place to work," he says. "My family and I are looking forward to the many educational and historical attractions that the city has to offer." Welcome to the Band, Jonathan!

Now that the Diplomats are a complete unit once again, we're looking forward to a busy and exciting summer. In addition to performing at dozens of parties, receptions and ceremonies, we will also be recording our first compact disc. The recording is scheduled for release at the end of 2002, the perfect time for a jazz album of holiday favorites! Look for a feature about the special guest vocalist who will be joining the Dips on this recording in the next issue. On behalf of The United States Air Force Diplomats, have a safe and happy summer! ☺

Editor's Note: In the January issue of Cadenza, we reported on Master Sergeant Mitch Morton's leukemia and subsequent retirement from active duty. Since then, there have been miraculous developments. We are thrilled to report that Mitch's latest tests show a complete absence of leukemia cells! In fact, efforts are now underway to bring him back to active duty status as a member of The Air Force Band. This turn of events is truly amazing and one to be celebrated. Heart-felt thanks go to all of you for keeping Mitch in your thoughts and prayers.

Brass Biz

By Master Sergeant Michael Bosch

As members of the Air Force, including those of us assigned to The Air Force Band, climb the ladder of their careers, professional military education (PME) is an important part of the evolution from the status of technician – in our case musician – to that of manager. Two members of the Ceremonial Brass recently returned from PME courses at their respective Air Force enlisted academies. Master Sergeant Jennifer Dayton attended the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, from January 7 through February 14; and Senior Master Sergeant Albert Islas attended the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, from January 7 through February 15.

Student leadership is a big part of the PME experience and Sergeant Dayton was chosen as the First Sergeant of her class. This placed her second in charge of a class of 120 attendees. In this role, she was the class' liaison for resolving any difficulties with housing and dorm management as well as other student personnel issues. The Academy's curriculum includes courses in performance management, profession of arms, air expeditionary force, law of armed conflict and problem solving.

"I think the most valuable things I brought home were an awareness of how incredibly proud my classmates were of their jobs and an appreciation for the great effort they put forth to do those jobs" says Dayton.



Master Sgt. Jennifer Dayton

"Everyone had valuable information to share, and everyone treated each other with respect. I definitely think that the most interesting people who lectured were the POWs. They had stories of strength, courage and a great deal of personal suffering. We met a person who actually was in the prison camp where the Great Escape happened! I couldn't believe the story about the extent of the work in the tunnel and how many months it took to dig. It was amazing to me that the POWs actually survived as they did. It makes me realize how we as Americans take so many little things for granted, like warmth, shelter and food."

While at the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Senior Master Sergeant Albert Islas attended an intense regimen of courses in behavior modification, human resource management, personality profiling, problem solving and project management. Instructional methods consisted mainly of classroom lectures, guest speakers and small group projects.

"I learned how to apply the techniques that I studied, and that some of the challenges faced by The Air Force Band are affecting other career fields as well," commented Sergeant Islas. "I had a very good instructor plus a very close flight, which made my time there very enjoyable.

Perhaps the most interesting parts were the special speakers. The POW speakers were very interesting, and the Tuskegee Airmen speaker was a living history book! I was also able to participate in a little piece of history—the presentation of John Levitow's Medal of Honor to the Enlisted Heritage Museum at Gunter Air Force Base, adjacent to the Senior NCO Academy. I met and made friends with people from all types of career fields and other branches of service.

Among the interesting people I met was a Navy SEAL who was attending the school. He had 110 combat missions while in Vietnam and had gone into the reserves before being called back to active duty in 1990. A chapter from the book *The Men Behind the Trident* was written about him. He was fascinating to talk to."



Senior Master Sgt. Albert Islas

Congratulations to both of these fine NCOs on their academic success!

In other news, March 12 and 13 marked the latest session of The Air Force Band's Noncommissioned Officer Development Course, which was attended by one of the Brass' new troops, Technical Sergeant Brandon Chaney. Several Band personnel taught the class, including Senior Master Sergeant John Pursell and Master Sergeants Anthony Kirkland and Susan Chumley from the Ceremonial Brass.

On February 22, the Ceremonial Brass Quintet performed for the investiture ceremony at the Pentagon for the new Air Force judge advocate general, Major General Thomas J. Fiscus, with Chief of Staff General John P. Jumper officiating. On March 26, the Ceremonial Brass performed at the arrival ceremony for the Israeli air chief at Bolling Air Force Base—again with General Jumper officiating—and a subsequent wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Members of the Ceremonial Brass continue to be quite active in the Band's Chamber Players Series concerts: "An Evening of Music for Trumpet" on April 25 featured Technical Sergeants Josh Lies and Mike Huff at the John Addison Concert Hall of the Harmony Hall Regional Center in Ft. Washington, Maryland. And coming up on May 3, "An Evening of Music for Trumpet" at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Virginia, will feature Master Sergeants Anthony Kirkland and Mike Bosch. "An Evening of Music for Brass" at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial featuring Top Brass (Master Sergeants Mike Bosch, Gil Corella, Todd Hanson, and Technical Sergeant Josh Lies) takes place on May 7. All performances are at 8 p.m. If you are in the Washington, D.C., area on these days, please come out and enjoy the performances! ©

Air Force Strings

by Technical Sergeant Henry Tyszler

This spring, The United States Air Force Strings bid a fond farewell to Master Sergeant Donald Harrington. Sgt. Harrington, a violist from Elmira, New York, attended the University of West Texas and pursued a major in applied music. Before joining the Air Force in 1979, he performed with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra; Amarillo Symphony Orchestra; Roswell, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra; and the Corning Philharmonic. As the viola section leader of the Strolling Strings, Sgt. Harrington ensured that his section's sound was highly polished and coordinated with the rest of the ensemble.

Having traveled to five continents – and many islands in between – as an Air Force musician, Harrington admitted it was difficult to single out one particular trip as the most momentous. After some prodding however, he pointed to a South American tour of the Band's production titled *Serenade in Blue* as the most memorable.

In 1993, he was selected as a featured soloist at the prestigious International Viola Congress proving to the public once again that there is nothing the Air Force can't do. In addition to his duties as violist, Sgt. Harrington was the director of personnel for the Strings. In this position, he assigned personnel to various jobs, ensuring that the composition of the ensemble was tailored to each performance. He also served as the Strings' supply liaison, procuring materials for the unit.

After retiring in June, Sgt. Harrington looks forward to his first post-Air

Force job – performing at his oldest son's wedding. We congratulate Sgt. Harrington on this happy occasion, and wish him the best of fortune in his next career, working for the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, Virginia.

Our four newest members, Technical Sergeants Gregory Pinney, Emily Barnes, William Hurd, and Amy Joseph have teamed up for a performance of Beethoven's *Quartet Opus 18, No. 2*. The performance is part of the Chamber Players Series and will take place on May 9 at Harmony Hall Regional Center in Ft. Washington, Maryland. Sgt. Pinney was also selected as the Band's Noncommissioned Officer of the first Quarter of 2002. His musical virtuosity and achievement in other duties make him a great asset to the Strings. Technical Sergeant Cleveland Chandler also deserves our congratulations for graduating from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy. This is an important milestone in his professional military education.



Master Sgt. Don Harrington

In April, members of the Strings presented a moving program of music, prose and poetry in memory of those who perished in the Holocaust. Senior Master Sergeant Jane Bockenek; Master Sergeant Vivian Podgainy; Technical Sergeants Bryce Bunner and Henry Tyszler; and civilian Karin Staudenmayer performed selections including old liturgical music, compositions by concentration camp inmates and poetry written by survivors of the Holocaust. This program, which was held in the Bolling Air Force Base chapel, was part of the annual Days of Remembrance observance. ☺

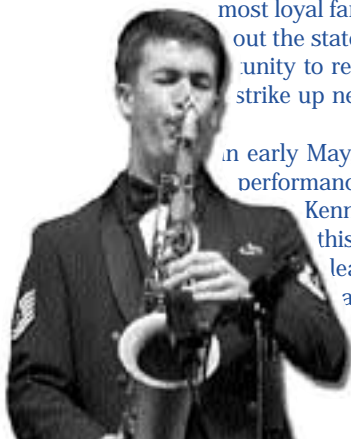
Airmen of Note Notes

by Master Sergeant Joe Jackson

In addition to performing in The USAF Band Guest Artist Series with artists Melba Moore, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Kirk Whalum, and Maureen McGovern, the Airmen of Note was pleased to present Jazz Outreach clinics and concerts at high schools across the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Maryland music students in Potomac, Bethesda and Waldorf, as well as students in Fairfax, Virginia, were given a close and personal "Airmen of Note experience." This invaluable program, which includes whole-band clinics, section clinics and one-on-one instruction, gives students a great chance to interact with Airmen of Note band members, and hear the music they are working on performed by an elite, professional big band.

In April, the Airmen of Note departed town for a community relations tour through the great state of Florida—home to many of the Note's most loyal fans. Playing to packed houses throughout the state, the Note used the tour as an opportunity to renew many old friendships, as well as strike up new ones.

In early May, we will be presenting a very special performance on the Millennium Stage of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In this show, the Note will honor our former leader, great friend, and world-famous alumni, trombonist Chief Master



Technical Sgt. Tyler Kuebler

Sergeant (Ret.) David Steinmeyer. This performance is at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3—we hope you can join us.

Also in May, the 2002 Jazz Heritage Series continues with a performance by jazz pianist Kenny Werner. At the age of 11, Werner recorded his first single with a 15-piece orchestra and appeared on television playing stride piano. During his career, he has recorded with the greats of jazz, including Charles Mingus, Chico Freeman, Edie Gomez, Peter Erskine and many others. As a bandleader, he has released more than 15 recordings. He has played with the Mel Lewis Orchestra and toured extensively with Archie Shepp. A recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Werner divides his time between recording, performing and teaching as an artist in residence at New York University. The concert is on May 11, at 8 p.m. at the Chesapeake Center for the Creative Arts in Brooklyn Park, Maryland. Check the calendar on pages 6-7 for details.



Pianist Kenny Werner


In March, the Airmen of Note said goodbye to our excellent tenor saxophonist, Technical Sgt. Tyler Kuebler. Tyler is one of the finest saxophone soloists on the music scene today, and the Note is extremely fortunate to have had him within our ranks for the past four years. The band wishes a fond farewell to him as he continues his musical career in the Miami, Florida, area. ☺

MAY

- 1 *The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 7 p.m., Memorial Auditorium, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950
- 2 *The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 7 p.m., Manatee Convention and Civic Center, 1 Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, Florida, 34221
- 2 "Air Force Band @ Your Library" Series, 3:30 p.m., featuring members of the Airmen of Note, Lamond-Riggs Neighborhood Library Children's Room, 5401 South Dakota Avenue, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: Fort Totten
- 3 The Airmen of Note, 6 p.m., Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, 2700 F Street NW, Washington, D.C.
- 3 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Trumpet," featuring Master Sergeants Anthony Kirkland and Michael Bosch, The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 7 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Brass Quartet," George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 9 The Airmen of Note, 7 p.m., Martin Luther King Fine Arts Building, Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland.
- 9 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Strings," John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 11 JAZZ HERITAGE CONCERT SERIES featuring legendary jazz pianist Kenny Werner with guest emcee John Tegler, host of "Jazz Straight Ahead" on Baltimore's WEAA 88.9 FM. 8 p.m., Chesapeake Center for the Creative Arts, 194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, Maryland. For directions, please visit www.chesapeakearts.org
- 16 "Air Force Band @ Your Library" Series, 3:30 p.m., featuring members of the Singing Sergeants, Northeast Neighborhood Library Children's Room, 330 7th Street NE, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: Union Station
- 16 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Tuba," featuring Technical Sergeant Brian Sands, John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 17 The Air Force Strings, "The Sanford Concert Series." Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, 44078 Saint Andrews Church Road, Route 4, California, Maryland.
- 21 The Airmen of Note, 7 p.m., Liberty High School, 5585 Bartholow Road, Eldersburg, Maryland.
- 21 Silver Wings, 8 p.m., Charles Lindbergh 75th Anniversary of Flight Concert, National Air and Space Museum, Seventh and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C.
- 24 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 7:30 p.m., Easton High School Auditorium, 723 Mecklenberg Avenue, Easton, Maryland.
- 24 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., "An Evening of Music for Strings," The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia.
- 26 The Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., Memorial Day Concert with the National Symphony Orchestra, the U.S. Capitol between Independence and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D.C.
- 31 Silver Wings, 7 p.m., Mary Ross Park, F Street, Brunswick, Georgia.

JUNE

- 1 Silver Wings, 4 p.m., River Street Stage, Savannah, Georgia.
- 2 Silver Wings, 7:30 p.m., Sun Fun Festival, Myrtle Beach Pavilion, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- 3 Silver Wings, 7:30 p.m., Carolina Civic Center, 315 North Chestnut Street, Lumberton, North Carolina.
- 4 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol between Independence and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D.C.
- 4 Silver Wings, 7 p.m., Rocky Mount Train Station, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.
- 5 The Airmen of Note, 7:30 p.m., "Spotlight by Starlight," Summer Concert, Madison District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia.
- 5 Silver Wings, Time and Place TBA, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

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- 6 The Airmen of Note, 5:30 p.m., Hirshhorn Museum Plaza, Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: L'Enfant Plaza
 - 7 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, The Sylvan Theater, located at the base of the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.
 - 8 High Flight, 6:30 p.m., North Beach Boardwalk Pavilion, Bay Avenue, North Beach, Maryland.
 - 11 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol between Independence and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D.C.
 - 14 The Airmen of Note, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, The Sylvan Theater, located at the base of the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.
 - 15 High Flight, 7:30 p.m., "Summer Concerts On The Town," Reston Town Center, Reston, Virginia.
 - 18 High Flight, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol between Independence and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D.C.
 - 21 High Flight, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, The Sylvan Theater, located at the base of the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.
 - 25 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol between Independence and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D.C.
 - 26 High Flight, 7 p.m., Centennial Park, 10000 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, Maryland.
 - 28 Silver Wings, 7 p.m., La Plata Town Hall, 5 Garrett Avenue, La Plata, Maryland.
 - 28 The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants, 8 p.m., SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, The Sylvan Theater, located at the base of the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.
 - 30 Silver Wings, 7 p.m., Damascus Recreational Park, 23723 Kings Valley Road, Damascus, Virginia.

All performances are free and open to the public. Performance times and locations are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit our website at www.bolling.af.mil/band. An asterisk indicates a free, ticketed event. For detailed information about performances in the Washington, D.C., area, please call the Concert Line, (202) 767-5658.

An American Summer Concert Band

By Technical Sergeant Jill C. Westeyn

I think of summer as being the most "American" of the four seasons. Perhaps it's because it unofficially begins and ends with holidays specifically dedicated to American endeavors. June is ushered in with Memorial Day, when citizens of communities across this nation parade down their main streets with floats decorated in red, white and blue, filled with our country's veterans. Patriotism is at its peak on the Fourth of July, with celebrations of our nation's independence, consisting of concerts and fireworks from coast to coast. And sadly, summer draws to a close just after Labor Day, as textbooks are purchased and school lunches are packed. While summer is in full swing, families come together and share in American pastimes such as cooling down on a hot day with ice-cold lemonade, enjoying a picnic and attending outdoor concerts. This summer, why not take pleasure in all three with The United States Air Force Concert Band?

The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants give free outdoor concerts all summer throughout the Washington, D.C., area. These concerts provide a wonderful opportunity for families to share a picnic and enjoy some great music together. Traditionally, the Concert Band has performed twice weekly at historic downtown venues, such as the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. In recent years, the scope of our summer concert schedule has been expanded to include performances in the suburbs as well. Performing in Washington, D.C.'s outlying neighborhoods allows the Band to reach audiences that may not otherwise have access to live performances by our organization. June's concerts are posted in the calendar on pages 6-7 in this issue. Be sure to check the Band's website at www.bolling.af.mil/band for the most up-to-date concert information, or call the concert line at (202) 767-5658.

As for the rest of the summer, be sure to bring your American flag to help us celebrate the Fourth of July at the National Air and Space Museum. The concert, in partnership with WETA, 90.9 FM, promises to be filled with America's most patriotic music. And once again, in August, the Band will spread the holiday cheer with the annual Christmas in August concert. More information on these concerts will appear in future issues of Cadenza.

In this most American of seasons, and most American of times, come express your freedom and patriotism with "America's Band." ©

High Flight Happenings

By Senior Master Sergeant Michael Pausic

The cherry blossoms have bloomed, the patio furniture is on the deck, and we all have spring fever. Life is good! To us in High Flight this means only one thing, it's time for our outdoor summer concert series. Every summer, High Flight visits many communities in the greater D.C. area to provide entertainment designed to represent the men and women of the United States Air Force in the most positive light. All of these shows are free and open to the general public. Last year, we were pleased that demand for our ensemble continued to grow. This summer, with the spirit of national pride on the rise, we anticipate meeting many first-time concertgoers. In this edition of Cadenza you will find the most up-to-date schedule of performances. We also encourage you to call our concert line at (202) 767-5658 to find the latest information about our schedule.

The goal of Cadenza has always been to inform our readers, not only about our performance schedule and the offerings of "America's Band," but also about how the organization works. Since its inception in 1991, High Flight has been blessed with a remarkably stable personnel lineup. But, alas, since change is the only constant in the universe, the time has come to "reload the weapon," if you will, and ensure we are fully capable for the foreseeable future. You might wonder how we consistently find such dedicated artists willing to accept the responsibilities of military service. Since we have just successfully concluded a round of vocal auditions, and it is still fresh in our collective minds, let me explain how the audition process works.

Once we determine the need to hire a new vocalist, we select a target audition date. The next task is spreading the word. We post the job opening on our website and publish it in the Cadenza, national music publications and select newspapers. We also send the audition notice and job description to our regional Air Force bandsmen since they are extremely capable and already "in the family." In retrospect, we must have been drinking too much coffee the day we decided to mail the audition notice and job description to every college and university vocal and theater department in the United States. That "little" project took the entire High Flight organization and related shops two full days folding letters and stuffing envelopes. Our tongues are still tacky! Yuck...k...k!

When the telephone starts ringing and the e-mails start arriving, the fun really begins. In the beginning, most folks just want more information about the job. My favorites include, "Do I have to actually join the Air Force?" and the ever-popular, "You really expect me to go to basic training? What about my nails?" Once we identify the serious prospects, they are informed that the audition process happens in three distinct steps.

First, a short telephone interview is conducted. A series of questions is asked to determine their basic eligibility or non-eligibility for military service. We have learned through years of experience that certain issues in the health, financial and legal areas can be roadblocks to a military career. It is pru-

dent at this time to contact the experts at the Air Force Recruiting Service for clarification about these issues before proceeding to the next step.

If everything looks good in the interview, we ask the candidates to submit a recording of themselves. Since High Flight vocalists must be stylistically versatile, this step provides the audition committee a practical tool for determining which candidates would be competitive for the job. Those who show promise are invited to Bolling Air Force Base for an audition. At this point, the applicants are sent music to prepare as well as instructions on what to expect during the live audition process.

The culmination of this entire process is realized on the day of the audition. This is always an exciting day – at least for us! If a lot of hard work collides head on with some plain old-fashioned good luck, by golly you've got yourself a singer! Once the winning candidate accepts the job, they must enter the Air Force through an Air Force recruiter just like everyone else. Things could still go wrong but at that point you just have to hold your breath until your new troop graduates from Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Lucky for them, they come directly to Bolling Air Force Base and we put them right to work.

I hope this article demystifies the process by which we staff High Flight. In case you're curious, our last round of auditions took three months from start to finish. Nearly fifty candidates inquired about the job, eight extremely talented singers were invited to audition and we were able to fill our two projected openings. That my friends, was a very, very good day!

We look forward to seeing you at our summer concerts. Do yourself a favor and call some friends – these shows make for a great summer evening of entertainment. Until next time, we thank you for your continued support. ☺



Master Sgt. Shani Prewitt sings to a member of the audience during one of High Flight's performances.

Silver Wings

By Technical Sergeant Matthew Ascione

The balmy, warm and fun-filled days of summer are just around the corner! What could be more exciting than a day at the beach, or a picnic with the family? What could possibly be more thrilling than winning the lottery? Well, I'll tell you... another stellar recording by your very own United States Air Force Band Silver Wings. With over seven original songs penned by the likes of Chief Master Sergeant James Queen, Master Sergeant Travis James Humphrey, Master Sergeant Chris Kosky and yours truly, Technical Sergeant Matthew Ascione, this studio outing promises to be the most anticipated event in recording history. Ok...maybe not, but it's going to be great!

We've been working hard in The United States Air Force Band recording studio to bring you the highest quality recording of your favorite country sounds. Among the original songs composed by member of the group are the title track of the CD, *Up High*, written by me; *My Life*, written by Sgt. Kosky; and a tribute to the survivors of the terrible tragedy of September 11, titled *I Remember*, written by Sgt. Humphrey and me. We've really poured our hearts into this one, and we hope everyone enjoys it as much as we have enjoyed making it for you. Look for the announcement of its release in a future issue of *Cadenza*, then, go to your local library and have them write us with a request—we'll be happy to send it so you and all your friends can enjoy our latest project.

The members of Silver Wings have been busy outside of the recording studio as well. Recently, I had the distinct honor to perform solo guitar for a luncheon at the Pentagon attended by the secretary of the Air Force in honor of Lieutenant General Lance Lord, the assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force. Lt. Gen. Lord has been selected for his fourth star and will be headed to Colorado to take over Air Force Space Command. We wish him the best of luck! The Barnstormers, consisting of Chief

Queen and Sgts. Kosky and Humphrey, have also been busy entertaining in the local area. Their special brand of bluegrass was enjoyed by thousands of tourists at the White House spring garden tour in April.

Recently, Sgt. Humphrey has been very active training members of The USAF Band in self-aid buddy care techniques. This basic first-aid course is designed to teach life-saving skills for people in distress while in combat conditions. Sgt. Humphrey, along with Master Sergeant Deborah Volker of the Air Force Strings, will soon have all of the members of our organization trained in this important set of skills.

If you live in Georgia, North Carolina or South Carolina, you are in luck because Silver Wings is coming to a town near you! Our summer concert tour is scheduled for May 31 through June 6. You can find our tour dates and performance locations in the calendar of events on pages 6-7. We all hope to see you there! ☺



Technical Sgts. Jebodiah Eaton (left) and Matthew Ascione during the recording session.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Arrivals

Master Sergeant Kevin Burns, trumpet, Airmen of Note

Departures

Chief Master Sergeant Daisy Jackson, retirement
Senior Master Sergeant Mark Carson, retirement
Master Sergeant Donald Harrington, retirement

Are you moving?

If so, let us know. One of our big challenges is to keep our database current. You can help us! We will make sure your address is updated in our system, so *Cadenza* can follow you to your new home. Drop a line to:

United States Air Force Band/BAP
201 McChord Street
Bolling Air Force Base, DC 20332-0202

You may also send e-mail to:
Kynneeth.Sutton@bolling.af.mil

Please include both your old and new addresses. Thanks for your help!

Alumni News

By Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Harry Gleeson

Don Russell, who spent four years with The United States Air Force Band starting in 1957, has traveled a long and interesting road in the field of military music.

Don was born in 1932 in Rockville Centre, New York. According to Don, "In '38 we moved to Syracuse where Dad decided I should learn to play a musical instrument, and the flute got the nod. I took lessons with Lionel Hambrecht who was the principal with the Syracuse symphony. In short order it became obvious that the flute and I were meant for each other. On my 9th birthday I was presented with a Haynes flute and immediately became the envy of all my peers.

"In 1943 we moved to Hershey, Pennsylvania. Here I must reveal what is perhaps my fondest and most passionate recollection. In our home we had a library/music room where Mom spent hours and hours practicing piano (she was brilliant), and Dad introduced me to and cultivated my love and appreciation for classical music – the most cherished gift I ever received.

"By this time it was obvious that music would be my life. In 1948, I entered the University of Pittsburgh Forensic and Music League competition and took first prize in solo flute. This led to a band scholarship to Valley Forge Military Academy. During the Christmas break in my senior year, dad warned me that, as soon as I graduated, I could expect a nice letter from the Selective Service Board – the Korean War was in full swing.

"My Hershey High band director, Earl Mays, had gone back in the Army as chief arranger for the Army Field Band. Dad learned that there was a vacancy for a flutist. He contacted Earl and an audition was set up. In retrospect, I don't think the audition went all that well, but (then Captain) Chester Whiting accepted me with the understanding that I would continue my flute studies. Shortly after basic training, I enrolled in Peabody Conservatory where I studied with Brit Johnson who was principal flute with the Baltimore Symphony.

"After about a year, I was assigned to piccolo and never looked back. Unlike most flutists, I love the piccolo and all its challenges. I enjoyed a six year tenure with the Field Band, but became somewhat unsettled and uncertain about my future. I took my discharge in 1957 and floated from job to job.

"One day, I spotted an ad in *The International Musician* for a flutist with the United States Air Force Band. I successfully auditioned in the fall of 1957. I've had several auditions over the years, but NONE were any more terrifying than that one – Colonel Howard, Harry Meuser, Robert Landers and Erich Seehafer, hovering over me like birds of prey!

"After six months sitting third flute, the band's piccolo player Master Sergeant Bob Cray transferred, and the chair was turned over to me. Shortly thereafter, we played a week at the Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa. When I was with the Field Band my approach was that the piccolo is like a spice – know where to be 'sparing' and when to apply liberally. The Waltz from *Swan Lake* was on our first program (in Ottawa) and I played much the same as I had under Colonel Whiting. During the intermission, Col. Howard summoned me to his dressing room and asked, 'Sgt. Russell, do you want to stay in my band? You're being paid

to play piccolo and I want more piccolo. There are three instrumentalists in my band that must tread where angels fear to tread, my English horn, my percussionists, AND my piccolo!' From that moment forward, my approach to the piccolo assumed a dramatic metamorphosis!!! And, from that time on, my tenure with The Air Force Band was a true joy.



Staff Sgt. Don Russell

"However, during our Far East tour in 1960, my first son, Michael, was born, and a short time later I applied for my discharge. This was a decision that I have often regretted, but at the time it seemed the right thing to do.

"I attended the University of Maryland for a time, but became very discontented with the world of academia. My wife Marge, who was a Canadian, suggested I contact the Canadian embassy and find out what career opportunities the Canadians had to offer. The timing was perfect because the Canadian government was recruiting professional musicians from all over Europe, mostly from the United Kingdom, Holland and Italy.

"In June of '61, I auditioned, was accepted (instant sergeant), and was assigned to the Regimental Band of H.M. Canadian Guards – very regimental and SHOCKINGLY BRITISH! The Canadian Guards Band was the band that provided the music for the daily changing of the

guard ceremony in Ottawa.

"After five years, I was transferred to the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada (The Black Watch) Band in Montreal. I did a lot of outside gigging – theater pit orchestras, McGill University faculty orchestra, Kingston (Ontario) Symphony Orchestra and the Montreal International Woodwind Quintette.

"In 1970, I was offered a position with the NORAD Band in Colorado Springs, one of the highlights of my career – a great band and a lot of fun trying to explain my American service ribbons on a Canadian uniform.

"I was next assigned to The Central Band of the Canadian Forces in Ottawa where I was principal flute and announcer! I think my boss liked my New England accent. I am a native-born American and damn proud of it – even sport an American flag on my rear windshield.

"While in Ottawa, my wife came down with M.S. The doctors all said a drier climate would be beneficial for her condition, and we were transferred to Calgary, Alberta, for duty with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Band, which was a show band with some truly great Canadian musicians.

"In 1978, I was promoted to Warrant Officer. We did a great deal of traveling in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. By this time my wife's health was deteriorating considerably. I knew the time had come to pack it in, and took my retirement in March 1981. Marge passed away in '93.

"I eventually met and married a girl in my archery club (we're both very keen English longbow enthusiasts.) We lived in Calgary for a year or so when the lure of the mountains prompted a move to Turner Valley, population 1,700. It's often been said that this is one of the most beautiful areas in western Canada.

"I became involved with the music program in the local high school. Not having a degree posed a bit of a problem, but the principal, knowing my experience, convinced the school board to hire me. For the last three years I've been the program assistant for The High Country Jr./ Intermediate Bands. Four years ago, I started a basement business rejuvenating antique smoking pipes and handcrafting custom cedar arrows for tournament archers. Who said you slow down when you retire? Guess I wasn't listening!

"I'm enjoying life, doing all the things I truly enjoy with no timetable or unreasonable expectations. I'll turn 70 in November. An interesting and fulfilled past with all its memories, a serene present, and a future filled with whatever expectations I choose."

"I must admit, I do miss the "band life," but I'm very much enjoying my involvement with our budding musicians. Don't ever forget, you can take the man out of the band, but you can't take the band out of the man." ☺

(Continued from page 1)

Prior to her appointment as director of Public Affairs, Chief Jackson served as the Band's chief of marketing and media relations and guest artist coordinator. Over the past 11 years, she was responsible for bringing more than 50 artists from all genres to perform with the Band as part of the highly acclaimed Guest Artist Series. This list of stars includes Wynonna, Chaka Khan, Billy Taylor, Roberta Peters, Harolyn Blackwell, Lee Greenwood and Morton Gould, to name just a few.

Widely recognized for her superior accomplishments, Chief Jackson was selected by *Air Force Magazine* as one of the eight most interesting women in the first 50 years of the Air Force. Additionally, she was chosen by the Thomas W. Anthony Chapter of the Air Force Association to receive its Woman of Distinction Award in 2000. Most recently, Chief Jackson was selected by the Daughters of the American Revolution to be a recipient of the first annual Margaret Cochran Corbin Award for exceptional military service.

In August, Chief Jackson will join the Washington, D.C., firm Artist Services Inc. ASI is a full-service production company specializing in helping charitable organizations produce fund raising events featuring world-renowned performance artists and celebrities. In her new role, she will be responsible for expanding the firm's operations and opportunities of the West Coast.

The men and women of The United States Air Force Band are proud to have served with this outstanding individual for twenty years. The Public Affairs office flourished under her guidance and superior leadership. We wish her Godspeed as she moves into the next phase of her life. ☺

Production Notes

By Master Sergeant Bob Thurston

In April, The United States Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants traveled through the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida to bring our special brand of entertainment to thousands of delighted listeners. Each of our three tour programs showcased the talents of not only our performers, but also our arranging staff, as the Band performed medleys of hit songs from three of pop music's most creatively fertile decades: the fifties, sixties and seventies.

Those Nifty Fifties, a staple of the Band's tour repertoire, was written by Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Mike Davis, former chief arranger and manager of the Band's Music Production section (the medley is featured on our recent compact disc recording *From This Moment On*). Chief Davis set out to show there was more to the music of the fifties than just early rock 'n' roll, though certainly there was plenty of that. We tend to associate the fifties with such iconic rock pioneers as Elvis and Little Richard, or with the wonderful harmonies of groups like the Drifters, the Diamonds, the Platters and the Coasters. But who can forget the *Unforgettable* Nat King Cole, or the smooth crooning of Perry Como and Johnny Mathis, or those fun and silly novelties like *Witch Doctor* and *How Much Is That Doggie In the Window*? All in all, listeners were able to recognize well over 50 hits from a smorgasbord of styles in *Those Nifty Fifties*.

Senior Master Sergeant Larry MacTaggart, the Band's current chief arranger, completed *Solid Gold '60s* earlier this year. He expertly captured the spirit and drama of the wild and wooly decade that brought us the British invasion, the folk movement, the beach groups and the beginnings of heavy metal. From the wailing falsettos of *Runaway* and *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, to the biblically inspired *Turn, Turn, Turn*; from the melancholy of *California Dreamin'*, to the goofy fun of *The*

Twist, the music of the sixties helped bring America through a turbulent decade of change and discord, and took us into the seventies with the sun shining in!

As with the fifties, we tend to associate the seventies with one particular musical trend. But there was more to those ten years than disco! In *That 70s Medley*, Master Sergeant Bob Thurston showcased two dozen hits – from "family bands" who helped usher in the decade, to singer-songwriters as diverse as Elton John, Carly Simon, Jim Croce and John Denver; from the driving energy of southern rockers like Lynyrd Skynyrd, to the power and sophistication of "arena rock" with groups like Boston and Styx. But of course, disco was the musical juggernaut that led pop music out of the seventies, and the paragons of polyester are out in force in this collection, from the Bee Gees to Donna Sommer.



Master Sgt. Thurston checking the score of one of his many arrangements.

eighties, too....

We hope you enjoy these musical journeys through the years. Here's to the music of your life! ☺

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